

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 INRE-00 AID-20

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SUBJECT: MUJIB LETTER TO SYG

BD OBSERVER MISSION RELEASED TEXT OF MARCH 29 LETTER
FORM MUJIB TO SYG:

" EXCELLENCY,

DURING YOUR EXCELLENCY' S VISIT TO BANGLADESH LAST
MONTH WE DREW YOUR ATTENTION TO HUMINITARIAN PROBLEMS
WHICH REQUIRE TO BE URGENTLY DEALT WITH AND OUR OWN
CONSISTENT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THEM.
IN THIS CONTEXT WE REAFFIRMED OUR POSITION THAT ALL
BANGALEES IN PAKISTAN AND ALL PAKISTANIS IN BANGLADESH
MAY IMMEDIATELY BE REPARTIATED WITHOUR PRE- CONDITIONS. IT
CONTINUES TO BE OUR VIEW THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL
WILL OPEN GOOD PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION OF ALL OUTSTANDING
HUMINITARIAN PROBLEMS IN THE SUB- CONTINENT.

WE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
PROPOSALS FOR REPARTIATION OF WIVES AND CHILDREN OF POW' S
AND ALL CIVILIAN INTERNEES NOW IN INDIA AND WOMEN AND
CHILDREN OF BANGALEE FAMILIES IN PAKISTAN. YOUR EXCELLENCY
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MAY RECALL THAT THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WAS JOINTLY MADE BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH TO

THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT CHANNEL ON NOVEMBER 20, 1972. THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT HAVE NOW CONVEYED TO US THROUGH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO REPATRIATE 15,000 BANGALEES PROVIDED ADEQUATE TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE. WE HAVE CONVEYED THROUGH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL.

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY BE AWARE THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF THE POW'S WILL BE REPATRIATED AS ORIGINALLY STIPULATED BY BANGLADESH AND INDIA THROUGH OVER LAND ROUTE AT WAGAH BORDER BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS NECESSARY TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT FOR REPATRIATION OF BANGALEE FAMILIES FROM PAKISTAN BY SEA. AS THE VAST MAJORITY OF PERSONS TO BE REPATRIATED ARE LOCATED IN KARACHI THERE ARE DISTINCT LOGISTICAL AND COST ADVANTAGES IN REPATRIATION BY SEA FROM KARACHI TO CHITTAGONG. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT I REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE U. N. MAY CONSIDER TAKING AN INITIATIVE IN SECURING A NEUTRAL SHIP PREFERABLY UNDER U. N. FLAG TO REPATRIATE 15,000 BANGALEES FROM KARACHI TO CHITTAGONG.

IN THIS CONTEXT MAY I ALSO REFER TO MY TELEGRAM TO YOUR EXCELLENCY ON NOVEMBER 27 TH WHEREIN I HAD CONVEYED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO REPATRIATE ALL PAKISTANI NATIONALS NOW IN BANGLADESH AT THE SAME TIME AS REPATRIATION OF ALL BANGALEES BY PAKISTAN. IF NEUTRAL SHIPPING CAN BE ARRANGED UNDER U. N. AUSPICES THE SHIP CAN CARRY FROM BANGLADESH 20,000 PAKISTANIS ON THEIR RETURN VOYAGE FROM CHITTAGONG TO KARACHI.

A U. N. INITIATIVE AT THIS PRESENT JUNCTURE WILL BE AN EXTREMELY WELCOME STEP AS CONTINUATION OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOOD OFFICES IN SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS. I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LEADERSHIP IN THIS MATTER WOULD LEAD TO A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE SUB- CONTINENT AND WOULD THEREFORE BE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

DACCA: 29 MARCH 1973 (SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN) SD/-
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PRIME MINISTER OF BANGLADESH"

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